

Application Number: 10/556,650
Amendment Dated: October 10, 2009
Office Action Dated: June 9, 2009

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated June 9, 2009 for which a three (3) month period of response was given. A Petition and fee for a two (2) month extension of time accompany this paper. Additional claim fees are believed to be due and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0959 is given below. Should further extensions of time and/or additional claim fees be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to treat this paper as a Petition for any needed extension of time and to charge any fees due to Deposit Account No. 50-0959, Attorney Docket No. 089498_0445.

Claims 2 through 26 are pending in the present application upon entry of the above amended claims. Claims 2, 3, 5 through 9 and 18 have been amended to more clearly state the nature of the present invention. Support for the amendments to claims 2, 3, 5 through 9 and 18 exists in the specification and claims as originally filed. Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 20 through 26 have been added. Support for newly added claims 20 through 26 exists in the specification and claims as originally filed.

Specifically, regarding the amendments to claims, allowable claim 2 has been amended to include all of the features of cancelled claim 1; allowable claim 6 has been amended to include all of the features of cancelled claim 1; and claim 18 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Regarding newly added claim 20, this claim is a combination of the subject matter of un-amended claim 18 with the allowable subject matter of claim 6; and newly added claims 21 through 26 correspond to the various dependent claims that depend from un-amended claims 1 and 18. Accordingly, entry of the amendments to the claims and the newly added claims is believed due as all the claims now contain allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action dated June 9, 2009.

Applicants' undersigned attorney would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that the subject matter of claims 2, 6 and 9 through 17 is allowable upon rewriting such claims into independent form or addressing the claim objections raised in the current Office Action. Accordingly, entry and consideration of the amendments to the claims, and the remarks which follow, is believed due and is respectfully requested.

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I. The Claim Objections:

Claims 1 through 19 have been objected due to various inadvertent typographical errors in claims 1, 9 and 18. As noted above, claim 1 has been cancelled, and claims 9 and 18 amended to address the issues raised on page 2 of the current Office Action.

Given the amendments made to the claims, it is believed that the claim objections to pending claims 2 through 19 have been rendered moot. As such, withdrawal of the claim objections to claims 2 though 19 is believed due and is respectfully requested.

II. The 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection:

Claims 1, 3 through 5, 7, 8, 18 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Kunimoto et al. (United States Published Patent Application No. 2007/0108856).

As noted above, all of the currently pending independent claims, claims 2, 6, 9, 18 and 20, include either the allowable subject matter of claim 2 or claim 6. As such, the rejection of claims 3 through 5, 7, 8, 18 and 19 have been rendered moot in view of the confirmation on page 4 of the current Office Action of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 2 and 6.

In light of the above, the abovementioned 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is believed to have been rendered moot. As such, withdrawal thereof is believed due and is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim objections and the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 3 through 5, 7, 8, 18 and 19 is believed due and is respectfully requested.

For at least the foregoing reasons, all of claims 2 through 26 of the present application are believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the foregoing in more detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,

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